

Message Text

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10

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 OIC-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 DHA-02 OMB-01

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R 230107Z APR 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7053

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ECOSOC, SHUM, SGEN

SUBJECT: 60TH ECOSOC--DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM

1. SUMMARY. SECRETARIAT INTRODUCED ITEM 3, DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AT AFTERNOON SESSION APRIL 22. ECOSOC PRESIDENT AKE (IVORY COAST) MADE SHORT STATEMENT APPEALING FOR ATMOSPHERE OF CALM AND TRANQUILITY. GENERAL DEBATE OPENED WITH SPEECHES BY AMBASSADORS OF EGYPT AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND DELS OF PORTUGAL

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AND GREECE AND BELGIUM. THE ONLY EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO

ZIONISM AND RES 3379 WAS UTTERED BY CZECH AMB SMID WHO TERMED IT SIGNIFICANT.
EGYPTIAN AMB FOCUSED ON PROBLEMS OF SOUTH AFRICA AND APARTHEID BUT ATTACKED VORSTER VISIT TO ISRAEL AND MADE GENERAL REFERENCE TO GA RESSES RELATED TO DECADE. PORTUGUESE DEL EMPHASIZED ROLE OF CURRENT GOVERNMENT IN GRANTING INDEPENDENCE TO FORMER AFRICAN COLONIES AND GIVING EXAMPLE TO OTHER AFRICAN PEOPLES.
BELGIAN DEL MADE TORTURED REFERENCE TO ORIGINAL DEFINITION OF RACISM IN EFFORT TO PRESERVE POSITION OF OPPOSING ZIONISM RES WITHOUT MENTIONING IT. END SUMMARY.

2. OPENING DEBATE ON DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WAS MARKED BY RELATIVE CALM AND CAREFULLY WORDED STATEMENTS. PRESIDENT AKE, IN INITIAL REMARKS, ASKED FOR AN ATMOSPHERE OF CALM AND TRANQUILITY AND APPEALED FOR CONSULTATIONS TO SOLVE ANY DIFFERENCES. FIRST SPEAKER, AMB OF EGYPT, DEVOTED MAJOR PORTION OF LENGTHY REMARKS TO CONDEMNATION OF SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA AND NEED TO ASSIST PEOPLES OF NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE IN STRUGGLE AGAINST COLONIALISM. HE THEN TURNED TO SUBJECT OF VORSTER VISIT TO ISRAEL, STATING THIS VISIT MADE CLEAR THAT ISRAEL IS STRENGTHENING RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND CITING RABIN DINNER FOR VORSTER AS SIGN OF OFFICIAL NATURE OF VISIT. HE STATED ISRAEL SYMPATHIZES WITH SOUTH AFRICAN EFFORTS, RELATIONS HAVE NEVER BEEN SO GOOD, AND OPPONENTS OF APARTHEID WILL NOT IGNORE ISRAEL'S COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA. WHILE AVOIDING EXPLICIT MENTION OF ZIONISM/RACISM RES, HE REFERRED TO PERTINENT RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY GA, HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, AND OTHER UN BODIES USING WHAT APPEARED TO BE CAREFULLY DRAFTED LANGUAGE, I.E., GENERAL AND INDIRECT REFERENCES ONLY.

3. PORTUGUESE DEL SPOKE AT LENGTH ON EVILS PERPETRATED BY PREVIOUS REGIME AND IMPORTANT ROLE OF CURRENT REGIME IN LEADING THE WAY FOR DE-COLONIZATION OF AFRICA. HE ALSO NOTED PROBLEM OF EXPLOITA-

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TION OF MIGRANT WORKERS. GREEK STATEMENT NOTED SUPPORT FOR DECADE AND CONCENTRATED ON SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

4. BELGIAN REP NOTED BELGIAN SUPPORT FOR DECADE AS ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED, BUT SAID THAT BELGIUM RECOGNIZES ONLY THE ORIGINAL DEFINITION OF RACISM AS CONTAINED IN ARTICLE 1 OF THE UN DECLARATION

ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. HIS TORTUOUS LANGUAGE WAS CLEARLY INTENDED TO MAINTAIN RECORD OF BELGIAN OPPOSITION TO ZIONISM RES WHILE AVOIDING ANY MENTION OF IT.

5. CZECH AMB SMID OPENED WITH REMARKS ON RACIST REGIMES IN SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA AND ASSERTED THAT THEIR CONTINUED REFUSAL OF RIGHTS WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE OF SOME MEMBERS OF NATO. SMID WAS THE FIRST SPEAKER TO REFER TO ZIONISM RES EXPLICITLY BY NAME AND NUMBER. HE CALLED PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO WHAT HE CHARACTERIZED AS A SIGNIFICANT MATTER.

6. DEBATE ON THIS ITEM IS SCHEDULED TO RESUME APRIL 23 AND CONTINUE INTO NEXT WEEK.

SHERER

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Message Attributes

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